

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 6836
INFO ALL EC CAPITALS
AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
USMISSION USNATO

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USEEC

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PEPR, EEC, TU, NATO
SUBJECT: ECEVIT'S MAY 25-26 PRESS CONFERENCES IN BRUSSELS

REF: BRUSSELS 10265

1. SUMMARY: IN TWO PRESS CONFERENCES IN BRUSSELS MAY 25-26, TURKISH PM ECEVIT REITERATED MANY OF THE POINTS HE HAS PREVIOUSLY MADE PUBLICLY CONCERNING THE DETRIMENTAL EFFECT OF THE US ARMS EMBARGO ON TURKEY'S ABILITY TO MEET ITS NATO COMMITMENTS, AND THE NEED TO STRENGTHEN EC/TURKISH RELATIONS. HE REAFFIRMED TURKEY'S INTENTION TO REMAIN IN NATO BUT EMPHASIZED THE NEED TO FIND ADEQUATE SOLUTIONS FOR FILLING THE DEFENSE "GAP" CAUSED BY THE US EMBARGO. ON EC/TURKISH RELATIONS, ECEVIT EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE EC WILL ACT POSITIVELY ON THE PROPOSALS HE
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SUBMITTED TO EC COMMISSION PRESIDENT JENKINS DURING THEIR MEETING MAY 25 (SEPTTEL). REGARDING CYPRUS, HE SAID A SOLUTION CAN ONLY BE ACHIEVED THROUGH DIRECT TALKS BETWEEN THE GREEK AND TURKISH COMMUNITIES, WITH THE SUPPORT OF GREECE AND TURKEY. HE EXPRESSED HIS CONTINUED WILLINGNESS TO PURSUE A POLICY OF DETENTE WITH GREECE DESPITE THE LATTER'S REFUSAL TO CARRY ON THE TALKS BEGUN IN MONTREUX.

ECEVIT ANNOUNCED HIS INTENTION TO VISIT THE USSR JUNE 21, BUT SAID TURKEY DOES NOT EXPECT TO GET ARMS FROM THE USSR. END SUMMARY.

2. THERE FOLLOW THE PRINCIPAL POINTS EMERGING FROM ECEVIT'S MEETING WITH THE INTERNATIONAL PRESS IN BRUSSELS:

3. NATO

ECEVIT DESCRIBED HIS TALKS WITH NATO SYG LUNS AND GENERAL HAIG AS "ENCOURAGING." HE SAID HE TOLD LUNS IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO DISSOCIATE DEFENSE PROBLEMS FROM ECONOMIC PROBLEMS AND THAT TURKEY'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE OVERALL NATO EFFORT WILL BE LIMITED SO LONG AS ITS ECONOMIC SITUATION DOES NOT IMPROVE. THERE MUST BE, HE CONTINUED, A NEW RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN TURKEY AND NATO, AND NATO WILL HAVE TO FIND ALTERNATIVE SOLUTIONS TO FILL THE GAP CAUSED BY THE US ARMS EMBARGO. HE SAID THAT, ON THE WHOLE, NATO HAS SHOWN AN INDIFFERENCE TOWARD THE PROBLEM CREATED BY THE EMBARGO; HE UNDERScoreD THE SERIOUS IMPACT THIS COULD HAVE ON THE EAST-WEST MILITARY BALANCE AND DETENTE. HE REITERATED THAT TURKEY'S CONTRIBUTION TO NATO HAS BEEN DISPROPORTIONATE TO ITS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND EMPHASIZED IT IS HIGH TIME THAT ITS ALLIES SUPPORT IN A MORE CONCRETE MANNER TURKEY'S EFFORTS TO REDRESS ITS ECONOMY. ECEVIT FURTHER SAID THAT DESPITE THE FOREGOING LIMITATIONS, TURKEY HAS NO INTENTION

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OF WITHDRAWING FROM NATO.

4. US ARMS EMBARGO

THROUGHOUT HIS PRESS CONFERENCES, ECEVIT SAID HE PLANNED TO OUTLINE TO PRESIDENT CARTER THE DISADVANTAGES OF THE ARMS EMBARGO. HE REITERATED THE DELETERIOUS IMPACT OF THE ARMS EMBARGO ON TURKEY'S ABILITY TO MEET ITS NATO COMMITMENTS. MOREOVER, HE SAID THAT THE EMBARGO DIRECTLY IMPACTS ON HIS COUNTRY'S ECONOMY BY FORCING TURKEY TO DEVOTE A DISPROPORTIONATE SHARE OF ITS INTERNAL RESOURCES TO DEFENSE, WHICH WAS NOT PREVIOUSLY THE CASE. ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS HE WELCOMED PRESIDENT CARTER'S INITIATIVE IN SEEKING TO LIFT THE EMBARGO AND EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE US CONGRESS WILL CONTRIBUTE TOWARD IMPROVING US-TURKISH RELATIONS BY SUPPORTING THIS MOVE.

5. EC-TURKISH RELATIONS

ECEVIT SAID HE HAD MADE CONCRETE PROPOSALS TO COMMISSION PRESIDENT JENKINS DURING THEIR MAY 25 MEETING. REFUSING TO GO INTO DETAILS, ECEVIT SAID HE HAD MADE NO DRAMATIC DEMANDS. HE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT THE PROBLEMS OVER THE EC-TURKISH ASSOCIATION AGREEMENT AND THE PROBLEM OF

TURKEY'S POTENTIAL FUTURE ENTRY INTO THE EC CANNOT BE SEPARATED FROM ITS ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES. HE EMPHASIZED THAT TURKEY, BECAUSE OF IMPENDING EC ENLARGEMENT AND EC AGREEMENTS WITH OTHER MEDITERRANEAN COUNTRIES, IS NOT ENJOYING THE BENEFITS IT SHOULD BE RECEIVING BY VIRTUE OF ITS PREFERRED STATUS AS AN ASSOCIATED PARTNER OF THE EC. BY WAY OF EXAMPLE, HE CITED THE AGRICULTURAL CONCESSIONS GRANTED TO MEDITERRANEAN COUNTRIES WHICH TURKEY DOES NOT HAVE. MOREOVER, HE OBSERVED THAT, CONTRARY TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE ASSOCIATION AGREEMENT ON FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT, EC MEMBER STATES HAVE CURTAILED THE MOVEMENT OF TURKISH WORKERS INTO THE COMMUNITY BY ALLEGING THEIR ENTRY WOULD INCREASE THE ALREADY HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT WITHIN THE COMMUNITY RESULTING FROM THE ADVERSE ECONOMIC SITUATION. THE EC, UNCLASSIFIED

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HE CONTINUED, MUST DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO HELP TURKEY

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RESTRUCTURE ITS ECONOMY WITH A VIEW TO ITS ULTIMATELY BECOMING A MEMBER OF THE COMMUNITY. THE EC'S FAILURE TO ASSIST TURKEY IN ITS ECONOMIC EFFORTS, HE SAID, COULD HAVE A SERIOUS IMPACT ON EC-TURKISH RELATIONS. HE ANNOUNCED THAT THE EC AND TURKISH DELEGATIONS WILL HOLD TWO MEETINGS THIS SUMMER, FOLLOWING WHICH HE HOPED CONCRETE POLITICAL DECISIONS WOULD BE MADE. REGARDING GREECE'S ENTRY INTO THE COMMUNITY, ECEVIT SAID THAT TURKEY WAS WORRIED AT THE POSSIBILITY OF THE EC'S BECOMING INVOLVED IN GREEK-TURKISH PROBLEMS AT GREECE'S INITIATIVE. SUCH AN EVENTUALITY, HE CONTINUED, COULD LEAD TO INCREASED TENSION, PARTICULARLY IF GREECE BECOMES A MEMBER BEFORE MAJORITY VOTING IS ADOPTED BY THE EC COUNCIL.

6. GREEC-TURKEY RELATIONS

ECEVIT EXPRESSED REGRET OVER GREECE'S DECISION TO POSTPONE
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INDEFINITELY ITS DIALOGUE WITH TURKEY AS A RESULT OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S INITIATIVE ON LIFTING OF THE ARMS EMBARGO. HE URGED QUICK RESUMPTION OF THE DIALOGUE SO THAT OUTSTANDING DIFFERENCES CAN BE SETTLED. HE AGREED THAT IT IS ABNORMAL TO HAVE STRAINED RELATIONS BETWEEN ALLIES AND EXPRESSED HIS READINESS TO DISCUSS THE POSSIBILITY OF DRAWING UP A NON-AGGRESSION PACT IF THIS IS NECESSARY TO ALLAY GREEK FEARS OF TURKEY.

7. CYPRUS

ECEVIT SAID THAT THE PROBLEM OF CYPRUS CAN ONLY BE SOLVED THROUGH A DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE GREEK AND TURKISH COMMUNITIES ON THE ISLAND. SUCH A DIALOGUE, HE CONTINUED, SHOULD ALSO HAVE THE SUPPORT OF GREECE AND TURKEY SINCE IT IS UNREALISTIC TO EXPECT A SOLUTION WITHOUT THEIR ACTIVE PARTICIPATION. (COMMENT: A TURKISH JOURNALIST WHO ATTENDED THE PRESS CONFERENCE INFERRED FROM THIS STATEMENT THAT ECEVIT WAS PROPOSING QUADRIPARTITE TALKS.)

8. TURKEY-USSR RELATIONS

ECEVIT ANNOUNCED THAT HE WILL BE GOING TO THE USSR JUNE 21. HE SAID THE VISIT IS TO RECIPROCATATE THE ONE MADE BY KOSYGIN WHEN DEMIREL WAS IN OFFICE. IN REPLY TO A QUESTION, ECEVIT SAID THAT TURKEY HAS NO INTENTION OF BUYING ARMAMENTS FROM THE USSR, NOTING THAT SUCH A MOVE WOULD BE IMPRACTICAL SINCE THE TWO COUNTRIES BELONG TO DIFFERENT MILITARY BLOCS. HINTON

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